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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,101	11/13/2002	Peter Ahner	1494	5087

7590 01/23/2004

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103 East Neck Road
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EXAMINER

LEWIS, TISHA D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3681

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/806,101

Applicant(s)

AHNER ET AL.

Examiner

TISHA D. LEWIS

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a first action on the merits of application serial no. 09/806,101, filed on November 13, 2002.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed on December 2, 2002 has been acknowledged.

Preliminary Amendment

The preliminary amendment filed on November 13, 2002 has been entered.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Art Unit: 3681

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because in line 1 "The invention relates to" should be deleted as being an implied phrase and (Figure) should also be deleted. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

-On page 1, lines 1-3, the reference to claim 1 should be deleted.

-On page 9, lines 17 and 18 disclose that a triggering of the **three** clutches can decouple the gear from the engine, but only two clutches (14, 15) are referred to. The clutch 21 should be inserted in this description with clutches 14 and 15.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the main drive" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitations "the inlet side" and "the outlet side" in lines 2 and 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 18 recites the limitations "the travel power demand", "the battery" and "the electric controller" in lines 2 and 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Art Unit: 3681

Claims 19, 20 and 21 recites the limitation "the driving power demand" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 23 recites the limitation "the gas pedal" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-24 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for:

-a drive system for motor vehicles having a main drive train with an engine, a driving clutch, a transmission and at least one drive axle, a secondary drive train with a secondary assembly drive, secondary assemblies and a starter generator wherein the secondary assembly drive and the starter generator can be coupled to the drive axle individually or jointly, with or without the engine driving the vehicle.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3600's facsimile number is **(703) 872-9326 before final and 703-872-9327 after final**. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is

Art Unit: 3681

paying by check **should not be** submitting by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 000-0000) on _____ (Date)

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Japanese patent 57076263A is cited as having a main drive train with an engine (1) and transmission (21, 22, 23) and a second drive train with a secondary assembly drive (7) and starter generator (9), but the starter generator and secondary assembly drive are coupled to a drive axle jointly not individually due to shaft 8.

-Kriegler et al ('189) is cited as having a main drive train with an engine (A1), driving clutch (K), transmission (P) and a drive axle and a second drive train with a secondary assembly drive (A3) also operating as an electric machine wherein the engine and secondary assembly drive can be coupled to the drive axle individually or

Art Unit: 3681

jointly (via K and K1), but the secondary drive train does not have a starter or does the electric machine.

-German patent 3316728A1 is cited as having a main drive train with an engine (1), driving clutch (4), transmission (5) and a drive axle and a second drive train with a secondary assembly drive (2) wherein the engine and secondary assembly drive are both internal combustion and the secondary assembly drive has less than half the power of the engine (no starter generator).

-Gray Jr. et al ('912) is cited as having a main drive train with an engine (1), driving clutch (4), a transmission (3) and a drive axle and a second drive train with a secondary assembly drive (10) wherein a pump (7) is used as a starting pump for the engine and can be used as a motor generator in which the pump and secondary assembly drive can be individually or jointly coupled to the drive axle (via 4, 11), but the pump is in the main drive train.

-Moore ('056), Takahashi ('949) and Burkhardt et al ('721) are cited as having a main drive train and a second drive train with two engines.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TISHA D. LEWIS whose telephone number is 703-305-0921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 8 AM TO 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CHARLES A. MARMOR can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9326.

Art Unit: 3681

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2168.

Tdl
January 21, 2004


Tisha D Lewis
Primary Examiner
Au 3681 1/21/04